

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please substitute the enclosed Figure 1 for the previously filed Figure 1. The attached revised sheets and annotated sheets of drawings show changes made to Fig. 1. In Fig.1, the reference numeral “36” (between “30” and “22”) has been corrected to now read “34.” Further, the reference numeral “34” (as amended via the previous Amendment-D) has been corrected to now read “36.” This has been done to correct an error which was made in the previous amendment.

Enclosed: Replacement Sheet (x1)
 Annotated Sheet (x1)

REMARKS AND DISCUSSION:

Upon entry of the present Amendment-E, claims 1, 5, 8, and 18-35 are pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 25 are independent.

Applicant has reviewed the above-referenced Office Action, carefully considered the references, and carefully weighed the Examiner's comments. In view thereof, applicant submits the present Amendment-E. Applicant contends that by the present Amendment-E, all bases of the Examiner's objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action have been traversed and overcome. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections in view of the amendments as well as the remarks set forth below.

Amendments Presented

In the Claims:

Claim 27 has been amended to be in independent form, and to include all of the limitations of claim 25 therein. Claims 25 and 26 have been canceled.

Claim 35 has been amended to appropriately correct its dependency.

In the Drawings:

In Fig.1, the reference numeral "36" (between "30" and "22") has been changed to now read "34." Further, the pre-existing reference numeral "34" (as amended via the previous Amendment-D) has been corrected to now read "36." This is to correct an error in the previous amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present amendment is fully supported by the original disclosure, including the drawings. Applicant also respectfully submits that no new matter is introduced into the application by the present amendment, since the entire subject matter thereof was expressly or inherently disclosed in the claims, specification, and drawings.

Claim Objections

I. In item 1 of the Office Action, claim 35 was objected to because of a minor informality.

Applicant submits that as suggested by the Examiner, claim 35 has been appropriately amended to properly depend from claim 34, not 35. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

II. In item 5 of the Office Action, claims 27-31 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (25), but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be *allowable* if rewritten in independent form.

As suggested by the Examiner, claim 27 has been amended to be in independent form. Applicant notes that claims 28-31 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 27. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection(s).

Claim Rejections

In item 3 of the Office Action, claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by Stimmel et al. (WO 00/71292).

Applicant submits that claims 25 and 26 have been canceled (although the limitations of claim 25 have been incorporated into claim 27).

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 25 and 26 is now moot.

Other Matters

In items 4-5 of the Office Action, claims 1, 5, 8, 18-24, and 32-35 are allowed, while claims 27-31 (although objected to) contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his confirmation of allowable subject matter in claims 27-31, and thanks the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1, 5, 8, 18-24, and 32-35.

Conclusion

Based on all of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all of the objections and

rejections set forth in the Office Action are overcome, and that as presently amended, all of the claims are believed to be allowable over all of the references of record, whether considered individually or in combination. Applicant, therefore, requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections of record, and allowance of the claims.

Entry of the present Amendment after final is respectfully requested under 37 CFR §1.116 on the grounds that the amendment does not raise any substantial new issues for consideration by the Examiner; the amendment places the claims in better form for appeal, if necessary; and the present amendment is believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner is not fully convinced of all of the claims now in the application, or if any other issues remain unresolved, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephonically contact applicant's undersigned representative to expeditiously resolve any such issues remaining in the prosecution of the application.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted, via EFS web, to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on 11 September 2008.



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